

"I am at home. The Public Prosecutor may therefore signify to me, whenever he pleases, the sentence of the Versailles Assizes condemning me by default to a year's imprisonment and three thousand francs fine. And we shall once more find ourselves before a jury. In provoking a prosecution I only desired truth and justice. To-day they are here. My case can now serve no useful purpose; it no longer even interests me. Justice simply has to say whether it be a crime to desire truth."<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately subsequent events confirmed only some of Zola's generous anticipations. M. Dupny fell from power on June 12, M. Waldeck-Rousseau succeeded him on the 22d, Dreyfus landed in France on July 1, and the new court-martial on him assembled at Rennes on August 8. His partisans were at first full of hope, but various incidents supervening (among others, a dastardly attempt to assassinate Maitre Labori), no little anxiety returned. Zola had remained in seclusion at Me\*dan,<sup>2</sup> glancing at the final proofs of "Incondite\*," which was appearing serially in "I/Auxore," and thinking of his next work, "Travail." Meantime Vize- telly was repeatedly solicited by English editors to induce him to write something about the court-martial, but he was unwilling to do so for any foreign newspapers, and besides, as he put it, it was neither right nor possible to say anything

\* The full text mil he found in "La Verit6 en Marche."

<sup>2</sup> He had written to Yizetelly, under date July 20, 1899 : "I am at last sending you the promised photographs, and apologise for the delay. You can

have no idea of the worries that have assailed me. I have  
often regretted the  
quietude of Queen's Hotel already. However, everything is  
going for the  
best, the happy *denouement* is approaching, and I start for  
Medan on Tuesday  
to take a rest. I have read in \*Le Matin' your articles on  
my stay in  
England. They are *trks lien*, they have skilfully remained  
within the limits  
-which. I asked you not to exceed. . . . Thanks again. I press  
your hand  
affectionately\* Emile Zola." The articles referred to were  
those reprinted as  
"Zola in England."